



Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-4302

September 16, 2010

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Office of The Speaker
H-232, US Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi:

We are disappointed that the 9/11 provisions of H.R. 847 were not brought to the floor by the Majority under a process that would have led to passage. Some of us voted for the bill in the House. Others of us were prepared to vote for the bill in the House, and supported its advancement in the committee process. As you know, the tax increase used as an offset had been twice rejected by the great bulk of the Republican caucus, first in HR 3962 and then in H.R. 4849, and was added to H.R. 847 prior to consideration of the bill by the House. It seems likely that this offset will be rejected by the Senate as it has done each time the House passed it.

When we first looked at the substance of the underlying issue for 9/11 responders and became supporters of the bill, we did so on the basis that the responders and companies were performing a federal function after the United States was attacked by terrorists. We write to suggest a possible solution on the offset issue, with the hope that more of our Republican colleagues would be in a position to support the bill if it were reconsidered under a rule.


Our suggestion is to remove the current offset in the version of H.R. 847 that was considered on the suspension calendar, and replace it with the \$1.6 billion remaining money not used for the census, plus the \$4.99 billion in rescissions that were contained in the House-adopted amendment to H.R. 4899, but were not included in the Senate-amendment to H.R. 1586. The total cost of the 9/11 bill would need to be reduced slightly to accommodate the funds available through this offset. H.R. 847 could then be considered under an appropriate rule. We believe that this bill can pass without having to include a tax increase. We sincerely hope that we can all work together to pass this bill to provide our 9/11 heroes the financial security they deserve as close to September 11 as possible this year.

Sincerely,

TED POE
Member of Congress (TX-02)

Michael Burgess
Member of Congress (TX-26)


Daniel Lungren
Member of Congress (CA-03)


David Reichert
Member of Congress (WA-08)

cc: The Honorable John Boehner and The Honorable Stenny Hoyer